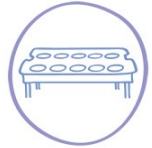




JMJ
MARIST BROTHERS
East Asia Province



2016|2017
La Valla



2016-2017 Theme:
“La Valla: Rediscovering the source of our Brotherhood”

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1. CELEBRATING THE COMMUNITY

Introduction

None of us has chosen his confreres in community. We are all different. Each one has his own history, his human qualities, his spiritual gifts, his character... But our community is not just a juxtaposition of people working for the same ideal. We are a family called by Christ, trying to live a life of unity and to show that "God is love, and that this love, poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, is stronger than our human limitations" [C 47].

In this prayer, we are celebrating the community, that is to say the fact of being gathered together around Mary, our Good Mother [cf C 48]. We are praying that it may be "a place of friendship and life shared" [C 51], in which "it is, above all our prayer that builds up community each day" [C 57] and in which our "brotherly love... makes the community an evangelizing force in the local Church" [C 58]. We thank the Lord for our community and for each of its members.

Canticle of Ezekiel [Ez 36, 24-28]

Antiphon: "Be of one heart and one mind" [*Spiritual Testament*].

I will take you away from among the nations; Gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land.

I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts.

I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees.

You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Glory to the Father...

Reading the Constitutions Article 63

A grace which is constantly offered us!

Community is a grace of the Holy Spirit. Brought together without having chosen our companions, we welcome one another as gifts of the Lord. In our untiring and ever-renewed effort to be reconciled with one another and to live in communion, we become a sign of unity for those who see the way in which we live. We are, however, always aware of the gap between this grace that the Lord is constantly offering us and the reality of our life. Therefore, we pray that, despite the difficulties encountered, we may remain united in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Intercession

Lord Jesus, Father Champagnat made the community of the early Brothers a real family.

- Grant that there may be among us one heart and one mind [C 49].

You called us to live a life of poverty, chastity and obedience,

- Grant that our vows, which are an expressions of our love for You, may be a unifying force in our community [C 50].

You wished the Superior to be your representative in the midst of the community,

- Grant that through his mediation we may remain united to the Province and that our community may become a living cell of the Institute [C 52].

You created us different and complementary,

- Grant that each one of us may take an interest in the life and work of each of his Brothers and that our community may become a place of friendship and shared life [C 51].

You gather us together in the midst of an apostolic community,

- Make us aware of the apostolic work of each of our Brothers, and strengthen our apostolic endeavor by the witness of our brotherly love.

You ask us to accept each other as a gift of your goodness,

- Grant that we may become a sign of unity for those who see the way we live [C 63].

The Community prays with Mary for each of its members

[Each Brother states briefly his prayer intentions, or what he wants the others ask of Mary for him. After each intervention the Hail Mary is said]

OUR FATHER...

Concluding Prayer: With Mary, new Marists towards a “new land” [Document of the XXI General Chapter]

Mary, you are our companion along the way and the main inspiration for our pilgrimage towards our Marist Bicentenary.

Welcome into our hearts and community today. Your openness, faith and spontaneity touch our hearts to be open in our turn to the Spirit, the gift of Your Son Jesus.

As Marists of Champagnat, we desire to change. We look to you as model and companion in living our vocation of following Christ, with the joy, sensitivity, love and energy you brought to educating Jesus.

You gather us all and unite us across East Asia into one international community bearing your name, a sign of communion to our Church and world.

When we contemplate you as woman filled with faith, your spirit of intuition and initiative impels us, as it did Marcellin, to be Good News for the poor children and young people of our world today, in “new lands.”

In trust we pray, like Champagnat, “If the Lord does not build the house...” and we say, “You have done everything for us.” Magnificat!

With you, Mary, we go to the Father, in union with Jesus and in the Spirit of Love. Amen.

Hymn: *We Are Companions on the Journey, page 37*

2. RENEWAL OF OUR COMMUNITIES

Leader: Loving God, You show Yourself to us as a Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, different yet one, living the fullness of life and love and beauty and power together, in-pouring and out-pouring, creative, redeeming in communion.

All: So, in this prayer, we seek greater awareness of our community life in line with our Constitutions as You want to draw people to form one single family where all will be loved as brothers (*and sisters*).

Hymn: *Only a Shadow, page 40*

Leader: As we praise You for Your redemptive communion, may the call of our General Chapter in the Congregation's 200th year bring us closer to what we have envisioned. We believe that in the renewed communities and ministries, our brotherhood is obvious. There, the joy that radiates from our hearts can become a breath of fresh air for an individualistic and divided world.

All: Hence, we feel called to revitalize our communities so that they might be places of brotherhood, simplicity and Gospel life in service of our mission.

Reader 1: Lord God, we praise and thank You for having made us to live as a community of brothers – the relationship we chose in which we can experience Your Trinitarian love. We thank You for Your Son, Jesus, who established community with the apostles and prayed that we might all be one in heart and mind, as You, Holy Trinity, are one.

All: It is our common belief that our communities will become real homes if they help each Brother to center his life in Your Son, Jesus, to integrate faith and life as he discovers You in the

events of daily life, and grows in communion with his Brothers as Champagnat did 200 years ago with his Brothers.

Reader 2: Jesus, help us to work towards that union of minds and hearts in You and in Mary, so that we can live in communion, and spread that communion in our torn world, making it a place of friendship, of life shared, where the human qualities and spiritual gifts of each may be free to flourish for the good of all.

Leader: Therefore, Creator God, in this prayer we commit ourselves as a community to what the Chapter's call on renewed communities entails...

- ✓ We do commit to have a strong desire to build a community where each one's growth is our common concern, where trust, healthy interpersonal relationships, and a family spirit prevail;
- ✓ We do commit to build a community as a place where young Brothers are helped to mature, where we take care of the senior Brothers, and are especially kind to the weak;
- ✓ We do commit to create a community as a place where we forgive one another and heal wounds, where we joyfully celebrate the life we share together.

All: With hearts open wide, we ensure that no one feels left out and that visitors feel welcome. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Reader 3: We form a community for the sake of our mission, a community open to the service of others. We are attentive to the needs of those around us and to take our place in the local Church. Our witness becomes more credible when our style of life is simple and poor.

The Lord's Prayer

Missioning: So now we go forth taking Your Spirit with us, God, to continue our community sharing and deepen our understanding of our

revised Constitutions. And we go in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

3. LIVING LIKE BROTHERS

Introduction

The Lord Jesus gave His life for love of men and His great desire was to gather together in unity the scattered children of God. With Marcellin Champagnat, we wish to strengthen the unity in our community by turning to Mary, our common Mother, and to Him who is the source of all good.

Hymn: *They'll Know we are Brothers, page 43*

Reader 1: We know that Marcellin held community life in high regard. In his *Spiritual Testament* he included these words: "I beg of you, my dear brothers, with all the affection of my soul, and by all the love you have for me, do all you can to ensure that charity is always maintained among you." The virtue of charity was to lie at the heart of any community that mirrored the founder's spirit. *(Br. Sean Sammon, Marvelous Companions)*

All: Lord, help us to define community today in our Institute as an affair of the heart. Life together with our Brothers challenges us to form and nurture a loving heart. Teach us not only to survive but to flourish in community by acknowledging that being called together by You is what transforms our life in community into a moment of grace.

Reader 2: The table preserved in the house of our origins at La Valla, has become a symbol of the community that gathered around it. Like all objects connected to real experiences of our own history, this table connects us to stories that have come down to us, and awakens in us a variety of emotions. There could be no better image to remind us of that day on the 2nd January 1817, when Fr. Champagnat gathered his first followers, and invited them to

live as a family of brothers. From that moment on, they shared bread and conversation, joys and sadness, dreams and frustrations around that table. *(Br. Emili Turu, a New La Valla)*

All: Listening to one's Brother means listening attentively. With our listening we are saying, 'both who you are and what you are saying interest me.' Lord, the table at La Valla evokes the experiences of the first Brothers. Help us to make that table a permanent invitation for us to experience the gift of brotherhood in a simple, yet profound way.

Reader 3: We accept one another, different in many ways, yet complementary. Each of us should take an interest in the life and work of his Brothers. We try to develop a finely-tuned awareness of others – a sensitivity of heart which is quick to see that a companion is troubled, and which finds a tactful way of helping him. Putting aside our egoism and touchiness, we accept with simplicity a Brother's admonition. We know how to ask pardon and to give it, trying to free our hearts from any resentment. In this way, our community becomes a place of friendship, of life shared, where the human qualities and the spiritual gifts of each Brother can flourish. *(Constitutions No. 51)*

All: We want to be Brothers who live in and give witness to the unconditional love of God for us. Step by step, day after day, we allow ourselves to be led towards maturity in Christ.

Leader: We feel the need to enter into processes of personal growth and conversion, drawing together the different dimensions of our being and welcoming God's love.

All: We have a strong desire to build communities where each one's growth is our common concern, where trust, healthy interpersonal relationships, and a family spirit prevail; places where we forgive one another and heal wounds, where we joyfully celebrate the life we share together.

Time of silence and sharing

- ✓ Silence, during which each one thanks the Lord for marks of his love and tries to see what may have been an obstacle to true love especially in the context of community living.
- ✓ Each Brother is invited to say, slowly, some insight the readings have shown him: a reflection on the text, repetition of a sentence or phrase, expression of a personal prayer.

Final Prayer *(to be recited together)*

You have come, Lord, not to judge us, but to seek what is lost, to save us when our hearts accuse us.

Thank you, Lord, for accepting us as we are, with the past of the world and our own past full of rejection of You.

Your heart is bigger than ours. You are the Creator of a new beginning, a God of love, and we wish to express our loyalty to You, whose love for us is eternal. Amen.

Blessing

Leader: May God who is the source of all good intentions enlighten our minds and strengthen our hearts. May He help us to fulfill with steadfast faith all we have promised.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord enable us to travel in the joy of Christ as we follow along His way, and may we gladly share other's burdens.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the love of God unite us, and make us a true family, praising His name and showing forth Christ's love.

All: Amen.

Leader: May almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, bless us all who have prayed together for forgiveness and healing.

All: Amen.

Final Hymn: *We are Companions on the Journey*, page 37

4. BUILDING UP UNITY

Presence

Leader: We are gathered as a community to express our conviction before You, God. You made manifest in Jesus and You made manifest in the community gathered together and united in the name of Jesus.

All: Where You God are, there is love. Where Your Son Jesus is, there is unity. Where a community is gathered together in the name of Jesus, there is life in UNITY.

Hymn: *They'll Know we are Brothers*, page 43

Leader: In La Valla, our community is being founded. In building up unity, foundation is taking place every day.

All: We praise You and we join Jesus in praying that, "we may all be one."

Leader: Welcoming, sharing, forgiving, reconciling, UNITY – all signs of community, often questioning the attitudes of the world and challenging it.

All: You have revealed Your grace for salvation of mankind. Your kingdom was heralded as a time of peace, reconciliation, UNITY. We praise You for Your mighty works, we pray that we may all be one.

Reader 1: The table of La Valla is a symbol of the relationship that unites us. Around the table people gather to speak, to laugh, to be together. It is necessary to seek out those moments and spaces for communication in depth, meetings of a quality that unite us

in what is essential. Thus it will be easier to understand the different ways of thinking and living, and accepting our own and other people's limitations in a climate of true brotherhood. (*Gathered Around the Same Table, No. 78 & 80*)

Unity of the Scripture and our Constitutions: some parallel ideas

Leader: Baptismal grace and grace of sharing (*Acts 2:44-45*).

All: Christ, principle of unity and peace (*Const. 118*).

Leader: Community united after the image of the Father and the Son, and giving rise to faith (*John 17:21*).

All: The unity of the community shows that God is love (*Const. 118*).

Leader: Persevering prayer of the first Christian community (*Acts 2:42*).

All: Prayer in common is an essential element in Marist community life. It is, above all, our prayer that builds up the community each day (*Const. 57*).

Leader: They recognized Christ at the breaking of bread preceded by the sharing of the Word (*Luke 24:35*).

All: The community lives the sharing of the Scripture (*Const. 98*); of prayer (*Const. 77*); and in living together: interest in each other, concern, reconcile and support (*Const. 51*).

Leader: It is sharing that we recognize Jesus, the Christian, and the community. It is sharing that BUILDS UP community.

All: The Lord's Prayer...*Our Father..*

Prayer of Praise (*inspired by article 47 of our Constitution*)

May You be blessed, Father, who want all men to be one family and to love one another as brothers.

May You be blessed, Jesus, Son of God, our Brother, You who call us to live in community the love which unites You to Your Father.

May You be blessed, Holy Spirit, who shed in our hearts the love which is stronger than our human limitations. Amen.

Hymn: *Song of the Body of Christ, page 42*

5. BROTHERHOOD, THE GIFT WE RECEIVE

Introduction

The experience of God's love is the origin of the vocation of the Brother. We have known the love God has for us and put our faith in it. That is also the source of every Christian vocation. Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.

The vocation of the Brother is not only intended to be that of a recipient of God's love, but also of being a witness and mediator of that same gift, of the project of communion which God has for humanity and which is based in the Trinitarian communion. This project, the Mystery which has been revealed to us in Christ, seeks to establish a horizontal relationship between God and humankind at the very heart of humanity, precisely where God wants to be present.

Hymn: *Walk with Champagnat, page 45*

Leader: We are gathered as a community to express our conviction of Your presence in our midst, O God. Thus, we believe that relationships of affiliation are transformed simultaneously into brotherly relationships.

All: For that reason, saying "we are brothers" is like saying "we are mediators of God's love", the God who "so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.

Reader 1: To be a "Brother" is also to be a mediator of the love of the Son, the Mediator *par excellence*, who "loved them to the end" and

asked us to love one another as He loved us. In this world that God who loves so much, the Brothers cannot hide.

All: On the contrary, we experience the impulse to go out to encounter and embrace God. In contemplating the saving work of God, we discover ourselves as instruments which God wants to use to make the covenant, God's love and concern for the weakest, more visible.

Reader 2: The Brother is aware that all creation is imbued with the love and presence of God and that especially whatever affects the human person is part of God's saving plan.

All: Thus is born in us and our community of Brothers the commitment to quality professional service in every task, no matter how profane it may seem.

Reading: Water from the Rock Numbers 91-92

Now I give you a new commandment: Love One Another

Both Jesus and Marcellin Champagnat, in their spiritual testaments, chose to invite their followers to communion and community. Jesus expressed this invitation while sharing the last supper with His disciples. The table of the Lord has since become a central symbol of communion and self-giving for Christianity.

For the community today that Marcellin created, the table at La Valla is also a powerful symbol of family and service. Made by Champagnat himself, that table may be seen as the embodiment of his efforts to create a community dedicated to the Lord. Furthermore, to share more intimately with the first Brothers, the Founder abandoned the relative comfort of the presbytery to live with those first Brothers. Life-together, expressed through family spirit, is an integral part of his vision.

Intercessory Prayer: Water from the Rock Nos. 93, 94, 95, 96, 98 & 100

At the core of our being we desire to love and be loved.

- We long for belonging, solidarity, the chance to share our lives and the opportunity to change our circumstances.

In Christ we find our communion with each other, and with all of creation.

- In this unity with each other we strengthen our being with Christ.

Jesus' message is simple but challenging: Love one another as I have loved you.

- In Christ we find that a common mission unites us in community and, in turn, community impels us to mission.

As we build communities and set up structures that support their vitality, we must share and live a spirituality.

- Marist spirituality understands community as an excellent place where both the self and God are revealed to us through others.

Marcellin shows us how we are to form and live in communities of mission.

- In the very name he chose, Little Brothers of Mary, Marcellin summarizes the fundamental identity of his community: the gospel virtue of simplicity, the call to fraternity, and the contemplation of the person of Mary.

Marcellin believes that in constructing a house he is developing a true community.

- Through living the rhythm of community life, both at La Valla and then at the Hermitage, Marcellin animates and nourishes the community life by his example, giving himself to manual work and to community prayer.

Personal Intension

Our Father

Closing Prayer

Father, in our world thirsty for connection and belonging, our Community is such a powerful symbol and a crucial place for each one to grow, be sustained, healed and encouraged. Enrich all our relationships as we try to live by taking Mary as the inspiration for our way of being and doing with others.

Help us, with Mary, that we learn how to express God's love in all the relationships of our personal and communal living, since from her we learn how other people are to be loved, and we, in turn, become living signs of Your tenderness. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: *With Mary Beside Me, page 47*

6. BROTHERHOOD, THE GIFT WE SHARE

Introduction

The mystery of the communion of its very inner life which the Trinity communicates to us becomes a gift shared by the Brothers in the community. The gift received and shared will also be given away in the mission. The foundation supporting the religious community is, above all, the gift of fraternity that it has received, which is more essential than the efforts and generosity of its members or the tasks they perform.

Whenever we lose sight of this mystical and theological dimension which binds religious community to the mystery of divine communion, present and communicated to the community, we inevitably come to forget the profound reasons for making community, for patiently building fraternal life.

Hymn: *Trinity Song, page 44*

Leader: As a community of Brothers we manifest the universality of the brotherhood begun by Christ, for it is not based on natural bonds but on the power of the Holy Spirit, living principle of love among human beings.

All: Our authentic community life represents a living sign of the essential reality that we, the Brothers have to announce.

Leader: The love that God has shown to humanity in Jesus Christ becomes a uniting principle for human beings among each other.

All: With faith, our community makes real the ministry of revealing the love of the Triune God by means of the communion that reigns in us.

Opening Prayer

Father, our consecration and mission are united in the community. In the midst of it, as we are gathered in the name of Jesus, may each Brother experiences Your Triune mystery: the Father's love, the life of the Risen Christ, the communion of the Holy Spirit. May You Lord consecrate each of us in the community and from there send us out to communicate that same mystery: love, life and communion.

Reading: Gathered Around the Same Table Nos. 65 & 68

God is Communion in Diversity & Our Experience of Family Spirit

God has revealed to us that His heart is communion in plurality; He is one and three; He is love, loving and loved, a loving force always loving. As children of that God, we yearn to move out of ourselves to meet others and to live the dynamic of the same being as God.

Marcellin Champagnat passed on to the first Brothers a form of relationship based on the example of Mary. They lived in an atmosphere of family, of home life, of proximity. The feeling of brotherhood went with them whenever they went. We call this form of relationship family spirit and it is our great prophetic sign.

Intercessory Prayer: Gathered Around the Same Table (Nos. 66, 69, 70 & 71)

The Church, being the sign of the Kingdom of God, lives through that Trinitarian love.

- May the Church reflects in its interior the one and the diverse facets of humanity and, faithful to its mission, it brings about union in diversity.

Family spirit is a form of existence that helps us as people and transforms us.

- May our experience of communion helps us to trust others, to accept our own limits, to feel appreciated and to share the best of what God has given to us.

From this spirit, the small details emerge with the others that characterize us.

- May like Marcellin, we cultivate among ourselves the small virtues.

Through family spirit we open ourselves to God the Trinity and we welcome with tenderness those who feel far from any home.

- *May our Marist pastoral should be steeped in this form of existence which characterizes us and saturates our mission.*

Closing Prayer:

Like Mary, we pray that we go out to assist those who need us, we visit Elizabeth, and we rejoice in each other's company and create family together. May we become attentive to the newlyweds in Cana, we offer our help with simplicity and we enjoy good wine together. We pray for each other in Jerusalem, we experience brotherhood and in this way we build a community in the Spirit. Amen.

7. BROTHERHOOD, THE GIFT WE GIVE AWAY

Introduction

Two Gospel images show us the meaning of the mission of the Brother. One is Jesus' compassion on the multitude where He amply satisfies them with the bread of the Word and, moved by compassion, He asks His disciples to also distribute the ordinary bread of life.

The other image also shows us Jesus, the Son of Man, but this time His compassion comes across as genuine brotherhood with the most disadvantaged. He even identifies Himself with them. His command becomes a solemn warning: "Whatever you did to one of these my brothers, you did it to Me."

Hymn: *Whatsoever You Do*, page 46

Leader: Throughout the Gospel Jesus' concern to alleviate the suffering and meet the needs of people is well known, to the point of identifying Himself with the needy and warning that only those who reach out to help them will inherit the Kingdom He promised.

All: Likewise, the mission that His disciples are entrusted with, when being sent to evangelize, refers not only to proclaiming the spiritual message but also to liberation from what oppresses the people and their human development.

Leader: Throughout its history, the Church has taken very seriously Jesus' command: *"Give them something to eat."*

All: The Church's evangelizing activity has consistently been linked to the distribution of human bread in its various forms: food, health, freedom, culture and meaning of life.

Leader: Our mission as Brothers follows this same movement presented by the two icons just contemplated.

All: On the one hand, it is the fruit of a heart that is open to suffering with the needs and miseries of humanity.

Leader: In them we experience the call of Christ who sends us to alleviate their hunger in many forms: our charism makes us particularly sensitive to them.

All: But it is not enough because our vocation as Brothers is ultimately identified with the Son of Man and we feel compelled to be like Him, brothers of the least ones.

Leader: This is how the gift of brotherhood we have received, is living in community now is shared in the mission.

All: It is a gift whose ultimate recipients are the little brothers with whom Christ has identified.

Leader: The mission is not "what we do" but rather our very life itself made communion with the least.

All: "If our gift is not to prove a source of humiliation, we must give to others not just something that is our own, but our very self; we must be personally present in our gift."

Reading: Water from the Rock Numbers 135 & 137

He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor

All Marists share the same mission: *to make Jesus known and loved.* As apostles we passionately center our lives in Jesus. We allow ourselves to be captivated by Him and His gospel. Close to Him, we

want to form our hearts. Learning from Him the ways of the Kingdom, we communicate His message and His way of being and acting through our presence, our words and our deeds.

For the people we meet each day we seek to be reflections of God. Our desire is to be a visible and permanent memory of the loving and merciful presence of God in the midst of people: living signs of the Father's tenderness. In some mysterious way, God works through us and in us. Despite our limitations, which we well know, our goodness is able to come through. Being with God we learn our way of being like Him: shepherd, friend, faithful companion.

Intercessory Prayer: *Water from the Rock Nos. 138, 139, 140, 141 & 144*

Marcellin chose to call the first Marists at La Valla "*Brothers*" and he believes in the strength of love that builds fraternity and heals wounds.

- We are drawn by a love that knows no bounds and we feel compelled to be Brother to all the world.

Irrespective of where we live our mission or with whom, being a "*brother*" means that our relationships are consistently simple, welcoming, and encouraging through compassion, joy and kindness.

- We are brothers of those we meet along life's journey and his is how we live out our Marist Apostolic Spirituality and give flesh to our mission.

Our mission is communal and the community of Marist apostles sustains and encourages us.

- In encountering fellow Marists, we experience affirmation of our faith and apostolic intuitions, and in joining with like-minded people, our apostolic activities are given renewed energy.

Marist apostles carry out their mission by building communities that are sacred spaces where people can find God and meaning for their lives.

- Willingly we welcome youth seeking meaningful relationships with people whom they can trust and together we become sowers of hope, and show them they are dearly loved by God.

In following Jesus and living out our mission we are inspired by Marcellin's passionate and practical approach.

- *With a heart for poor children and youth, Marist apostles seek concrete responses to their painful reality.*

Closing Prayer

Father, Your Spirit speaks of Your love ever afresh into our world. Like Champagnat we desire to be continually open to its movement and urgings. The dying Jean-Baptiste Montagne impelled Marcellin to begin his project of having Brothers to teach the deprived children of the rural areas.

Lord, help us to direct our journey to those places where others would prefer not to go, to enter into the suffering there, like Mary at the foot of the Cross, and to be a presence and service that remains faithful, despite its risk. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

8. BROTHERLY COMMUNION AND COMMON LIFE

Introduction

Common life, an essential characteristic of the religious life of Brothers, is intended to strongly encourage brotherly communion, but fraternal living does not automatically become a reality through the observance of the rules governing common life.

While it is true that the structures are necessary, community among Brothers is expressed mainly through our attitudes. We come together to participate more fully in the life and mission of Jesus, to give witness to brotherhood and sonship to which all the faithful are called.

Hymn: *Newness of Today*, page 39

Leader: The community is, for us Brothers, an experience more than a place; or better still, living together, gather in a place, to deeply develop that experience.

All: In that way we are responding to the call to be experts in communion, effective signs of the possibility of living deeper relationships rooted in the love of Christ.

Leader: Mutual love is the hallmark of Christians, and this is the sign which we the Brothers offer.

All: This love must be the criterion of discernment in our community, above and beyond the effectiveness of our work.

Leader: Our apostolic action, aware that this consists in transmitting what we have previously lived in community.

All: Our brotherhood will create brotherhood, and our mission is characterized from the beginning as one of being in communion and creating communion.

Reading from our Constitutions No. 49 *(In the Spirit of our first Beginnings)*

Father Champagnat formed the community of the first Brothers into a real family. He shared their life at La Valla and at the Hermitage, and he spent himself on their behalf. *“You know,”* he told them, *“that I live only for you, that every day I ask God to give you everything that is genuinely good for you, and that I would give anything, even at the cost of the greatest sacrifices, to procure that for you.”*

In their turn, the Brothers love him as their father. Living with him, living close to our Good Mother, they grew steadily in the sense of brotherhood, of devotedness, and of self-renunciation in the service of one another. Faithful to this heritage handed down by generations of Brothers, we live our community life in a great family spirit, thus fulfilling the wish of our Founder: *“Love one another as Jesus Christ has loved you. May there be among you but one heart and one mind.”*

Response *(Inspired by St. Marcellin Champagnat and Archbishop Oscar Romero)*

Leader: We come before You, Lord, accompanied by Saint Marcellin Champagnat and Venerable Francois responding to Your call to be experts in communion and effective signs of the possibility of living deeper relationships rooted in Your love.

All: We are aware what we are about to do; planting seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted in the hearts of the members of our communities. We cannot do everything and we feel liberated in accepting the truth.

Leader: We are also aware Lord that our brotherhood will create brotherhood, and our mission is characterized from the

beginning as one of being in communion and creating communion.

All: We are workers, not master builders, ministers and not messiahs. We are prophets for a future not our own, not seeing the end results. We ask that we explicitly take on the ideal of the first Christians, to be *“of one heart and one soul.”*

Closing Prayer:

Father, our community is a grace of Your Holy Spirit. Brought together without having chosen our companions, we welcome one another as Your gifts. We pray that in our untiring and ever-renewed effort to be reconciled with one another and to live in communion, we become a sign of unity for those who see the way in which we live.

We are, however, always aware of the gap between this grace that You constantly offering us and the reality of our life. We pray that, despite the difficulties encountered, we may remain united in Your name Lord Jesus. Amen.

9. LIKE ALL HIS BROTHERS IN ALL THINGS

Introduction

Religious consecration helps the Brother to participate more consciously in the fraternal dimension which characterizes the priesthood of Christ. To clothe us in His divine sonship, Jesus Christ first of all became brother, shared our flesh and blood and was in solidarity with the sufferings of his brothers and sisters. This is the title Jesus gives His disciples after His Resurrection, and Mary Magdalene is responsible for communicating it.

In our fraternal community which supports us, we experience the mystery of the Risen Jesus as a call and a sending forth in mission. This community is a theological space where Jesus makes Himself present among the Brothers to unite them in one heart, to give them His Spirit and to send them, like Mary Magdalene, to announce that in Christ we are all brothers, sons of the same Father.

Leader: Immersed in this experience, we develop our baptismal priesthood through brotherhood.

All: Through it we become a bridge between God and our brothers, anointed and sent by the Spirit to bring the Good News of the love and mercy of God to all, especially to the least of our brothers, the weakest members of humanity.

Hymn: *If the Lord does not Build, page 39*

Presence

Leader: At this prayer, we place our being Marist before Your presence Lord, as we present our intention to pray as a community making our consecration as the focus.

All: We call to mind that You have ‘marked’ us and bear Your ‘seal’. You have set us apart, You have placed Your mark of ownership on us and You have given us the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

Leader: “The love which the Holy Spirit pours into our hearts gives us a share in the charism of Marcellin Champagnat and directs all our energies to this one aim: to follow Christ as Mary did, in his love for the Father and for people. We live out this ideal in community.”

All: This is why, Lord, in Your presence, we wish to tell You once more, with our lips and with our hearts, that we are Yours.

Prayer (based on Constitutions Nos. 36, 21 & 28)

Reader 1: Jesus, You are the perfect example that we try to follow. Prompted by the Holy Spirit we seek to carry out Your Father’s will in all things, and in this way, to enter into Your Paschal mystery.

Reader 2: Lord, we need Your constant help to put into action our claim of making young people welcome, our hearts open to receive them and ready to serve them.

All: Mary inspire us to have constant concern for their welfare, and to respond with selfless love to their appeals for help.

Leader: Lord, keep our faith alive in the knowledge that Your Son knew that He had received everything from You, He gave Himself freely into Your hands and emptied Himself to the point of dying on a cross.

All: Blessed are You, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reading from our Constitutions No. 46

Our Journey as Consecrated Men

Our life as consecrated men is a journey in faith, hope, and love. Jesus has challenged each one of us. We have heard His words: “Do not be afraid, and have set aside fears and hesitations in order to follow Him. With Father Champagnat as our guide, we go forward together day after day, hearts filled with gratitude, encouraged by the example of the fidelity of the Brothers who have walked this way before us.

As we journey on, we may experience doubt, loss of enthusiasm, dryness of heart, or waywardness by pursuing false consolations. We shall fight our way through all this, especially by recourse to Mary, and with the help of our Brothers. Secure in knowing that God is always faithful, we do not harbor doubts about His call. Thus we come to know the happiness that springs from really living out the total gift of ourselves to God and to others.

Intercession (Response: Help us, Mary, to be faithful.)

Leader: So that, ‘being drawn into Christ’s death in order that we may share in His resurrection, we may walk at His side and labor to build up the Kingdom.’ *Response*

Leader: So that, ‘sharing in the mystery of Jesus may lead us on to the perfection of our being and make our whole life a love-worship of God.’ *Response*

Leader: So that, ‘we may allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in the footsteps of Christ, chaste, poor and obedient.’ *Response*

Leader: So that, 'in renouncing, by our vows, certain values cherished in this world, we may manifest the presence of heavenly goods already possessed here below.' *Response*

Leader: So that, 'we may keep alive the attitude of Father Champagnat, as did our first Brothers, by giving ourselves wholeheartedly to the task assigned to us by obedience.' *Response*

Leader: So that, life of our Founder may be a living witness to us of the ideal that he presented to his first followers: "to become a Brother is to take as your goal to become holy." *Response*

Leader: So that, 'we may learn to love more ardently by continually striving to be faithful to the spirit of the Beatitudes.' *Response*

Prayer: Gathered together in Your presence, Lord, we offer You our firm intention to accomplish the mission You have assigned to us: to promote the Kingdom of peace, justice and love which You have begun, but whose coming will be brought about only by the work of those You have chosen. Accept, heavenly Father, our desire to serve You. Forgive our weakness as we walk behind Jesus, Your Son, Our Lord. Amen.

10. COMMUNITY IN SEARCH

Introduction

At the beginning of his vocational experience the Apostle Paul asks, "*What should I do, Lord?*" The question signals the radical change of attitude which has occurred in him, having left his own path to follow that of Jesus. The answer will not be found in the exact fulfilment of the law and the traditions of the Synagogue, but rather in his listening to people, his reflection on daily events and his contemplation of the Word.

We the Brothers, in facing the present, have to risk asking the same question as Paul: "*What should I do, Lord?*" But this question is only sincere when preceded by the willingness to "get up," because that is the first response required. In other words, fidelity to the present time requires personal willingness to change and to be disturbed. Without it, there is little value in renewing structures.

Reader 1: As Brothers, we do not ask the question of ourselves but directs our question to the Lord because we want to know and do His will.

Reader 2: We will need to be a contemplative to be able to find Him in the people and in daily events in the light of the Word.

All: This enlightenment allows us to interpret daily life with the heart of God and to live every moment as a time of grace and salvation.

Hymn: *Great Man of God, page 38*

Leader: Loving God, we acknowledge our dependence toward You as expressed by the obedience of our community. Our communities, provinces and the entire Institute are called to live in obedience for the sake of Your Kingdom.

All: And so, we must seek constantly to know Your will, especially in times of renewal and profound change. Create in us a prayerful spirit so that we make our discernment and arrive at decisions in union with our superiors.

Leader: May each one of us keep in his heart and mind what is required of us as we discern in the Holy Spirit.

All: Grant that our discernment in Your Spirit requires us to have a spirit of faith, to be attentive in listening to Your Word, to remain faithful to the charism of the Institute, to read correctly the signs of the times and to renounce certain personal or group interests. We ask You this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading from our Constitutions No. 41

Obedience in Community

Obedience in community requires each man to work at developing the spirit of communion and an inner fidelity to the action of the Holy Spirit. Two important helps in coming to see things as the Father sees them are spiritual discernment and sincere, frank dialogue with the Superior and with one another. Time and again in this

searching, we shall have to abandon our own point of view to accept what the community, together with the Superior, believes to be the will of God.

Response

Leader: Centered on our spirit of discernment inside the community that 'each one take an interest in the life and work of our Brothers;

All: We pray over the responsibilities that each one has and blessings be granted unto our community and for each one as we try to work in accord with discernment in the Holy Spirit.

Leader: We also pray for the spirit of communion and inner faithfulness to the working of the Holy Spirit;

All: And the sense of spiritual discernment and sincere dialogue among ourselves.

Leader: We pray for the grace of dying to ourselves to accept His will;

All: And the spirit of Mary, especially in the way she listened and made herself available, in our work and daily activities.

Intercessory Prayer

Consecrated life, like all forms of Christian life, is a quest for perfection in love.

- May our vocation and commitment to be memory of this obligation for all is the motive for a greater effort.

In this search we have to be very attentive to the erosion of fraternal life in community.

- May we work at it daily and repair damages or frictions which occur to overcome many factors that tend to destroy fraternal life.

Part of the conversion process is going back continually to basics, to our prophetic mission in the Church.

- *May we live our brotherhood as a gift from God and strengthen it with God's help and our commitment within the community and also outwards from the community.*

Personal Intention

The Lord's Prayer

Concluding Prayer

Mary, our Ordinary Resource, we ask you to pray for us and be with us so that we may continue to grow as persons with listening and discerning hearts, constantly seeking the Father's will.

Help us to be generous to all those we meet on life's journey, to be present with attentive and compassionate hearts. Accept our love, dear Mother, that by your example and by your intercessions, Christ may become the center of our lives.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: *Side by Side Marcellin, page 41*

11. A SPIRITUALITY OF THE WORD

Introduction

The three Synoptic Gospels briefly narrate a scene in which Jesus establishes a clear distinction between "*His mother and brothers*" in the flesh and "*His mother and brothers who hear the word of God and keep it.*" The former are outside the house, they call Him from outside; the latter are gathered around Him, inside the house, listening to Him.

This new category of family relationship established by Jesus is where Mary finds her true greatness and her profound significance for the Christian community. Mary welcomes and fully lives the mystery of the love of God to the point of it becoming flesh in her. She is the bond of unity in the emerging community of brothers.

Hymn: *With Mary Beside Me, page 47*

Opening Prayer

God, our Father You shared with Mary the redemptive mission of Your Son, and through her example You invited us to be Your disciples. Grant us generous hearts, so that like Mary we may treasure Your Word and ponder it in our hearts. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Praise of our Blessed Mother

Leader: We call on Mary whose role in the mystery of salvation consists primarily of listening and responding to the Word with an open and ready heart.

All: Mary, you were opened to salvation and responded to it. You followed Jesus throughout your life. You were committed to the saving work of God made manifest in Jesus. Teach us to be completely at the disposal of the Lord.

Leader: By contemplating Mary, we allow ourselves to learn from her: learning to pray in the Spirit for the Word to take flesh in our lives.

All: Mary, you are blessed because you listened to the Word and carried it out. We come to you, handmaid of the Lord, to be schooled by you, and to respond to your call: *“Do whatever He tells you.”*

Reading from Luke 8:19-21

Then His mother and His brothers came to Him but were unable to join Him because of the crowd. He was told, *“Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside and they wish to see You.”* He said to them in reply, *“My mother and My brothers are those who hear the Word of God and act on it.”*

Intercessory Prayer

Like Mary, we Religious Brothers are invited to live intensely the spirituality of the Word,

- *to have this experience of being at home around Jesus, listening to His message, and living alongside Him the mystery of the Father.*

Like Mary, we Brothers are invited to allow ourselves to be filled by the Spirit,

- to hear the Spirit within ourselves, crying in the depths of our heart: *Abba!*
This experience is the only one that can sustain our vocation.

Supported and inspired by Mary, we Brothers live in our community
the experience of the Father,
- *who brings us together with His Son around the table of the Word, of the
Eucharist and of life.*

With Mary, we Brothers sing the greatness of God and proclaim His
salvation,
- *because of this we feel urged to seek out and to make a place at the table of the
Kingdom for those who have nothing to eat.*

Supported and inspired by Mary, we Brothers live in our community
the experience of the Father,
- *who brings us together with His Son around the table of the Word, of the
Eucharist and of life.*

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven, You gave Mary as our model who listened to
Your Word and carried it out. We ask You that by the help of her
prayers we too may come to share the fullness of Your Word. May she
be our inspiration as we continue to respond to Your call. We ask this
through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

12. COMPASSION, LIFE-GIVING COMMUNITY

Introduction

Religious Brothers provide valuable services of various kinds,
participating in the mission of proclaiming the Gospel and bearing
witness to it with charity in everyday life. These services *“are all a
participation in Jesus Christ’s own ministry as the Good Shepherd who lays
down His life for the sheep, the humble servant who gives Himself without
reserve for the salvation of all.”*

The image of the Good Shepherd, like the image of the Master
wrapped in a towel, washing the feet of His disciples, speaks not of
power but of service, of love and sacrifice to the point of giving one’s
life. Thus a Brother should understand his service, whatever the
specific functions assigned to him.

Hymn: *Walk with Champagnat, page 45*

Presence

Leader: It is the start of a new day in the life of being Marist especially as a community who has a vision to be life-giving. Our vision calls us to look ahead to the challenges and opportunities that a life of faith will bring during this day and the days to come, whether these be in an active apostolate or in a quieter setting.

All: As members of this Marist community, we remember that we have undertaken to live in a manner similar to Marcellin, a person of great compassion, and that all our actions are to reflect this.

Leader: So today we give God praise for His constant inspiration, for inspiring us to envision a life-giving community and for our special mentor Marcellin and ask the Spirit to be with us as we set out on our journey through this day.

Prayer

Reader 1: O God, in Your Son Jesus, You have given us a model of compassion. The Gospels relate again and again the many episodes in His life where He went out of His way to show compassion for any who needed it, irrespective of who they were or what they represented.

Reader 2: In Marcellin, we see a reflection of this great compassion, of this attitude towards others which leads to an understanding that all humanity is frail and has needs which require fulfilling.

All: We ask You God that we too may become ever more aware of the needs of all with whom we have dealings, and ask that we have the strength and courage to give whatever is needed of ourselves. As Mary did in her visiting of Elizabeth, we too seek to be compassionate people.

Reader 3: Marcellin saw the frailty and weakness of those about him, especially those who could do nothing to improve their own lot. He was also touched deeply by the helplessness brought about by the environment and conditions of the time. He did not turn

away from this but his great compassion spurred him on to do what he could for these people.

All: O God, we thank You for the challenges that such situations bring, and we ask that we do not turn away from these situations, but instead actively seek them out so that through and with You we become true compassionate followers of Champagnat. We make these prayers through Christ and the Holy Spirit, with You, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Reading from Luke 6:36-38

Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned; forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and there will be gifts for you; a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap; because the standard you use will be the standard used for you. *(Pause for reflection)*

Offering

All: As daylight strengthens around us, bringing with it the promise of a day in which there will be so many opportunities for us to exercise compassion, we offer ourselves as disciples of Marcellin.

Leader: We ask Your help God, in the many needs that we will experience, especially for *(intentions may be said aloud)*

Closing *(The Lord's Prayer)*

13. CARING, GROWTH-PROMOTING RELATIONSHIP

Presence

Leader: We awake to a new day, perhaps not as alert as we will be later, but still secure in the knowledge that we are in the presence of a very caring God, one who wants us to grow in Him through helping to build His very caring Kingdom.

All: This is the same caring kingdom which Marcellin set about building in his part of the world, and which we undertook to build in our part of the world when we chose to be his followers.

Leader: We thank God and give God praise for the virtue of caring.

Prayer

Reader 1: Creator God, we know our well-being and development is very important to You – You care about. You care greatly whether or not we participate with You in the process of creating the world You want.

All: You care about us, help us to be caring of one another.

Reader 2: You care whether each of us makes full use of every opportunity to realize our potential. You care that justice is done. We remind ourselves, though, that these things cannot happen unless we are Your agents in carrying them out, unless they are done through us. This was the way You designed creation.

All: And as Your Son, Jesus, did in His life, help us especially to be caring of those whom we may not like, or whom we may not understand.

Reader 3: You need our caring response. As Marcellin showed us with the rural youth of his time, You need us to care about, and to care for, those who suffer from any form of injustice, especially those who suffer from an institutional injustice such as human exploitation or abused of power.

All: Inspire us in our efforts of fulfilling the caring aspect of our community life.

Leader: Truly, we realize that in You needing us, we need You. So, as we go from here this morning into our different ministries, be with us, that we act as true disciples of Marcellin and care in the way he did for those we encounter. We make this prayer through Christ and the Holy Spirit, with You one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Reading from Luke 14:1-5

On Sabbath He went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees, and the people there were observing Him carefully. In front of Him there was a man suffering from dropsy. Jesus spoke to the scholars of the law and Pharisees in reply, asking, "Is it lawful to cure on the Sabbath or not?"

But they kept silent; so He took the man and after He had healed him, dismissed him. Then He said to them, "Who among you, if your son or ox falls into a cistern, would not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?" (*Pause for reflection*)

Offering

All: Loving God, it is Your very nature to be caring of all creation, and we know it is Your desire that we also be very caring of all aspects of creation.

Leader: So as this day begins we offer ourselves, in the spirit of Marcellin, to go forth conscious of the caring that creation needs. And we ask You to be with us especially in our caring for... (*Intention may be said aloud*)

Missioning

All: We now go forth to work with You in creating a caring Kingdom, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

14. BROTHERS IN SOLIDARITY

Presence

Leader: As we gather at the beginning of another day we remind ourselves that it is human to be in relationship: with each other here, with those with whom we minister, with those to whom we minister, with many others we are not even conscious of, and through all of these people, with God.

All: So, this morning, we seek greater awareness of our relationship with all of creation, of our solidarity with creation, of our solidarity in God.

Prayer

Leader: Creator God, we praise and thank You for having made us to live in relationship with You, a relationship in which we can, if we so choose, experience Your most loving nature. We bring to mind that it is through the many facets of Your creation that You make Yourself present to us in all of Your goodness.

All: Lord, in these times in which we live, You seem to be leading our Province in a journey into solidarity, making us more conscious of Marcellin's love for the poor, and his ardent wish to be with them and to serve them.

Leader: We are becoming aware of the sacredness of our environment as Your stewards. We are also becoming aware of the sacredness of people, of providing creative presence among the poor young people, and by our Brotherly attitude in dealing with them. We bring to mind that it is through the many facets of Your creation that You make Yourself present to us in all Your goodness.

All: We believe that You, Lord, are the Father of every person, that our being Brothers to all in Jesus and Mary is more important than race, culture, class and nationality.

Leader: This morning we ask that we become more aware of the particular relationships that Marists should foster with different parts of creation, and consequently with You. Especially the relationships with most needy youth – being in solidarity with them as Marcellin was: the relationships with our Brothers in community – living in solidarity with them as Marcellin did: and being in solidarity with our co-workers.

All: We believe that You are calling us to conversion in thinking and acting, that You want us to see the world through the eyes of the

poor, in the hope that we will welcome the invitation of Your Spirit to live the love of Jesus towards all people, especially young people, those most neglected.

Leader: Such relationships are only formed by us giving of ourselves and we ask that we have the wisdom and resolve to do this effectively and without seeking anything in return.

All: And so we feel ourselves called to get alongside the poor, to learn from them and to serve them; to make working with them our preferential option, working to promote justice and betterment.

Leader: Mary, you offer us a unique example of a life lived in solidarity with Jesus, and with those most in need; help us to have courage and hope and daring and be with us as we walk our pilgrimage of solidarity with the poor in our lives.

Offering

All: Loving God, it is Your very nature to be in solidarity with all creation, and we know it is Your desire that we also be in solidarity with all aspects of creation.

Leader: So as this day begins we offer ourselves, in the spirit of Marcellin, to go forth conscious our solidarity with creation. And we ask You to be with us especially in our caring for...
(Intention may be said aloud)

Closing *(The Lord's Prayer)*

SUGGESTED HYMNS:

1. Companions on the Journey

Intro: G - A - D - Bm - G - A - G

Refrain:

G A D

We are companions on the journey,

G A D
 Breaking bread and sharing life;
G A D Bm
 And in the love we bear is the hope we share,
G A Bm
 For we believe in the love of our God,
G A G
 We believe in the love of our God.

G A D
 No longer strangers to each other,
G A D
 No longer strangers in God's house;
G A D Bm
 We are fed and we are nourished;
G A Bm
 By the strength of those who care,
G A G
 By the strength of those who care.

Refrain

We have been gifted with each other,
 And we are called by the Word of the Lord;
 To act with justice, to love tenderly,
 And to walk humbly with our God,
 To walk humbly with our God. *Refrain*

2. Great Man of God

Intro: Em - A - D - Dsus - D

D Em A D
 Great man of God, Champagnat shone with zeal,
Em A A7 D
 Strove thru' his life his master to reveal;

F#m G A

With him for guide may we o'er sin prevail;
D G D Em A D Dsus D

Praise be to Jesus and to His Mother.

For Mary's son, this son of Lyon's soil gave up the world,
For youth to pray and toil,
To lead to God, and Satan's power to foil.
Praise be to Jesus and to His Mother.

Inflamed with love, of Mary, 'First Resource.'
Living in God who gave his life its force;
To crib and cross, he ever had recourse.
Praise be to Jesus and to His Mother.

'Be of one heart,' he urge in life and death,
'Be humble, chaste; obey with every breath.'
'Work for Christ, but thru' His Mother blest.'
Praise be to Jesus and to His Mother.

3. If the Lord does not Build

Intro: C - A7 - Dm7 - G - G7

Refrain:

C A7 Dm7

If the Lord does not build a house,

G G7 C
Then in vain do the builders labor.
C7 F Dm
And in vain does the watchman stand his guard,
G G7 Asus Dm7 G C C7
If the Lord is not his help, if the Lord is not his help.

F Dm C C7 Dm
 If a man wants to boast, let him boast in the Lord;
Gm Cm-D-Cm Am D-D7-G-G7
 In the Lord who is kind and merciful, who forgives our sin. *Refrain*

Who is man to compare, with Lord who is God?
 What is man that the Lord should care, or that God should be moved.
Refrain

Put not your faith in man, whose life must fade like the fields.
 From the earth he is born and to earth returns, Put your trust in the
 Lord. *Refrain*

4. Newness of Today

Intro: A - D - E

A D Bm E A
 In the newness of today, we offer You, O Lord.
C#m D C#m D E A
 Our yes to life; our yes to people. Our yes to community.
C# F#m D C#m D A
 It's our yes to You the bread of life, the wine of love.
Am Dm Am
 Create in us a heart to love.
E A
 A mind to discern what You want, not what we want.
D A D Bm E E7

To discover one another, so together we celebrate Your love forever.

Repeat verse 1

5. Only a Shadow

Intro: G - F - C

C
The love we have for You, O Lord is only a shadow of Your love for us,
F **C** **G F** **C G7**
Only a shadow of Your love for us, Your deep abiding love.

C
The Bread we take and eat, O Lord
F **C**
Is Your Body broken and shared with us,
F **C** **G F** **C C7**
Your Body broken and shared with us, the gift of Your great love.

Refrain:

F **C** **F** **C**
Our lives are in Your hands, our lives are in Your hands,
F **C** **G F** **C G7**
Our love for You will grow, O Lord, Your light in us will shine.

Our own belief in You, O Lord is only a shadow of Your faith in us,
Only a shadow of Your faith in us, Your deep and lasting faith.
The dreams we share today, O Lord,
Are only a shadow of Your dreams for us,
Only a shadow of dreams for us if we but follow You. *Refrain*

6. Side by Side Marcellin

Intro: C-G-F-C-F-C-Dm-G7

Refrain:

C **G** **F** **C**

Side by side Marcellin, we are pilgrims of hope,

F C Dm G

Of a new dawn to come, we are your family.

C G F C

Side by side Marcellin, joyful prophet of hope,

F C Dm G C C7

Shaping youth of today, tomorrow's happiness.

I will follow You, Lord, from Bethlehem;

F C Dm G

Where poverty in birth proclaimed Your endless love.

F C Dm C

And You know well, O Lord, the love we have for You;

F C Dm G G7

This love will tell the poor, that You now share their pain. *Refrain*

I will follow You, Lord, from Galilee,

To carry forth the Word within Your company.

And You know well, O Lord, the life within our souls,

Our need for brotherhood within Your family. *Refrain*

7. Song of the Body of Christ

Intro: D-G-D-G-D-G-C-D

Refrain:

D **G** **D** **D**
We come to share our story, we come to break the bread,

D **G** **C** **Dsus D**
We come to know the rising from the dead.

D **G** **D** **G**
We come as Your people, we come as Your own,

D **G** **C** **D**
United with each other love finds a home.

D **G** **D** **G**
We are called to heal the broken, to be hope for the poor,

D **G** **C** **Dsus D**
We are called to feed the hungry at our door. *Refrain*

Bread of life and cup of promise in this meal we all are one,
In our dying and our rising may Your kingdom come.
You will lead and we shall follow, You will be the breath of life,
Living water, we are thirsting for Your light. *Refrain*

8. They'll Know We are Brothers

Intro: **Em**

Em

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.

Am

Em

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.

Am

Em

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Refrain:

C

Em

Am

And they'll know we are Brothers by our love, by our love.

Em

Am

Em

Yes, they'll know we are Brothers by our love.

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.

And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. *Refrain*

We will work with each other; we will work hand in hand.

We will work with each other; we will work side by side.

And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride. *Refrain*

9. Trinity Song

Intro: **Em**

G

Am D

G

Father in my life I see, You are God who calls to me;
Em E7 Am D G
You hold my life in Your hands, close beside You I will stand.
Em Am7 D G - D
I will give all my life to You, help me Father to be true.

Jesus in my life I see, You are God who walks with me;
You have come that all may know, the Father's love that in me grows.
I just want to be like You, help me Jesus to be true.

Spirit in my life I see, You are God who lives in me;
Living water like a stream, full of power for my dream.
I just want to move with You, help me Spirit to be true.

10. Walk with Champagnat

Intro: **D - G - A**

D

G A7

We hear your call and we will follow you.

D **G** **A7**

We're on a journey we will walk with you.

D **G A7**

Walk humbly every day and love.

D **G** **A7** **D**

Your spirit lives in us and your light will shine for all.

Refrain:

G D **G A7**

We will walk with you; we will share your dream.

D G D **G**

We will love and reach out to all.

D G **D G**

You'll be beside us and you will guide us.

D **A7** **G - D**

Your gentle hand will lead us each day.

We share a vision to live as one,

Full of compassion, faith in everyone.

Open our hearts; help us to love,

Strong mind and gentle heart we will follow in your name. *Refrain*

You fill our hearts You fill our mind, O Lord.

Give us the strength, courage to walk Your way.

We're called to serve and love,

To act with justice and give hope to everyone. *Refrain*

11. Whatsoever You Do

Intro: D - G - A

Refrain:

D **G D** **A7** **G Bm D** **A7** **D**
Whatsoever you do to the least of My brothers; that you do unto Me.

D **G** **A7** **D**
When I was hungry, you gave me to eat;
G **A** **D**
When I was thirsty, you gave me to drink.
G **A7** **D**
Now enter into the home of My Father.

When I was homeless, you opened your door;
When I was naked, you gave Me your coat.
Now enter into the home of My Father. *Refrain*

When I was little, you taught me to read;
When I was lonely you gave Me your love.
Now enter into the home of My Father. *Refrain*

12. With Mary Beside Me

Intro: D - Em - A - D - G - D

Refrain:

D **Em** **A** **D** **A7**
With Mary beside me all my life, I follow in the steps of Champagnat.

D **Em** **A** **D** **A7**
With Mary beside me all my life, I go to meet Jesus my friend.

D **Em**
You've won me over Lord in the stillness of my soul.

A7 **D** **A7**
With all my heart I say, 'I love You, my Lord.' *Refrain*

Responding to the Lord, with a 'yes' throughout your life.
O Mary show me how to say my 'yes' today. *Refrain*

Marcellin Champagnat, we have confidence in you.
As pilgrims here below we follow in your steps. *Refrain*

***** Prayer for the 22nd General Chapter**

Father, Son and Holy Spirit fill us with the faith, vision and courage of our founder Saint Marcellin as we prepare to enter our third century as Marists of Champagnat.

Gathered around Mary, our Good Mother, we desire to seek You, to be weavers of community with all our sisters and brothers, and to bring Your Good News to young people, especially those on the periphery.

Ever-loving God, from our simple foundation in La Valla, we come to the threshold of our third century, to create together a new beginning.

Confident that You are faithful O God, and that we participate in Mary's work, we place our preparation, discernment and the decisions of our 22nd General Chapter under Your protection and guidance.

May this time of remembrance, reconciliation and celebration be marked by wisdom, audacity, gratitude and faith as we journey in haste to the future which beckons us, today and always.

Amen.